ACTION COMICS
2
暗殺師
(くらやしきじょうのすけ)
【原作】中島かずき(劇団☆新感線)
【作画】赤名修
双葉社
ACTION COMICS
暗殺師
(くらやしきじょうのすけ)
2
【原作】中島かずき(劇団☆新感線)
【作画】赤名修
双葉社
魔を錠に封じ込める。
それを枢(くる)り"と言う!!
江戸にはびこる魔物たち。
しかし魔物の存在を信じぬ奉行所にあらぬ疑いをかけられた錠之介。
"枢り屋"稼業に迫る危機!!
ISBN4-575-83247-2
C9979 ¥600E
9784575832471
雑誌50168-47
定価:本体600円+税
1929979006006

ACTION COMICS

闇鍵師

仁多見錠之介

2

【原作】中島かずき（劇団☆新感線）

【作画】赤名修

双葉社

ISBN4-575-83247-2

C9979 ¥600E

9784575832471

1929979006006

雑誌50168-47

定価：本体600円+税

魔を錠に封じ込める。それを"枢り"と言う!!

江戸にはびこる魔物たち。
しかし魔物の存在を信じぬ奉行所に
あらぬ疑いをかけられた錠之介。
"枢り屋"稼業に迫る危機!!

双葉社

月刊アクション
毎月第1第3火曜日発売

ACTION COMICS
2
暗殺教室
殺し屋銃之介
【原作】
中島かずき
(劇団☆新感線)
【作画】
赤名修
双葉社

闇鍛冶
2
堕魔之介
中島かずき
赤名 修
双葉社

ISBN4-575-83247-2
C9979 ¥600E
雑誌50168-47
定価:本体600円+税
9784575832471
1929979006006

魔を銃に封じ込める、それを"撃つ"と言う!!

江戸ほびる魔物たち。しかし魔物の存在を許さぬ者の登場にあった堕魔之介。"撃"屋稼業に危機!?

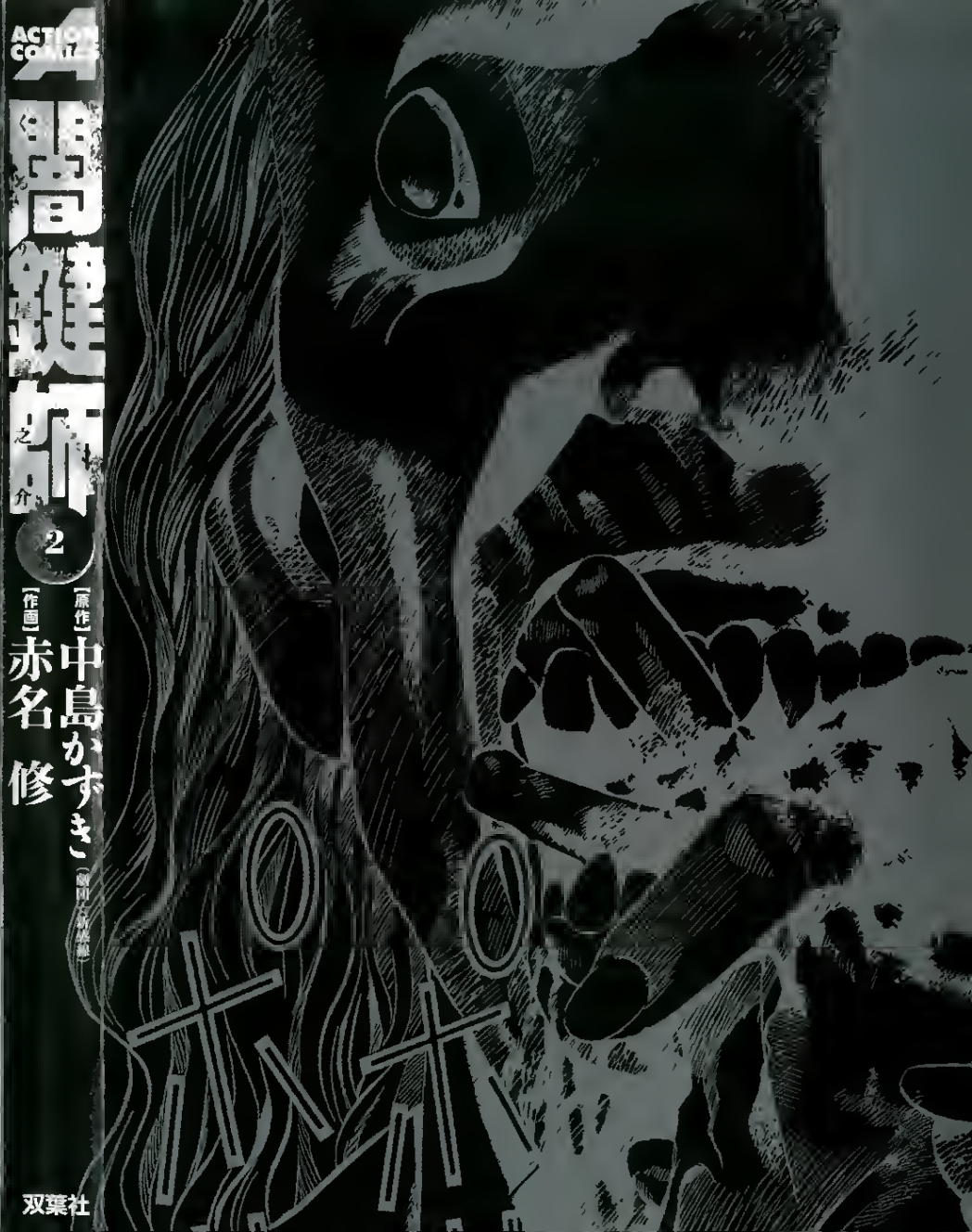
アクション
毎月第1第3火曜日発売

ACTION COMICS

異能解決屋 くるり屋錠之介 2

【原作】中島かずき（劇団☆新感線）
【作画】赤名修

双葉社



YAMIKAGISHI 2

TABLE OF CONTENTS

9th TALE: BLUDGEONS AND LOCKS 1.....3
10th TALE: BLUDGEONS AND LOCKS 2.....29
11th TALE: BLUDGEONS AND LOCKS 3.....53
12th TALE: A MOTHER'S SILHOUETTE ON THE NEW YEAR'S EVE 1.....81
13th TALE: A MOTHER'S SILHOUETTE ON THE NEW YEAR'S EVE 2.....105
14th TALE: MYSTERIES OF THE SECRET LOCKS 1.....129
15th TALE: MYSTERIES OF THE SECRET LOCKS 2.....153
16th TALE: MYSTERIES OF THE SECRET LOCKS 2.....177

くるり屋錠之介

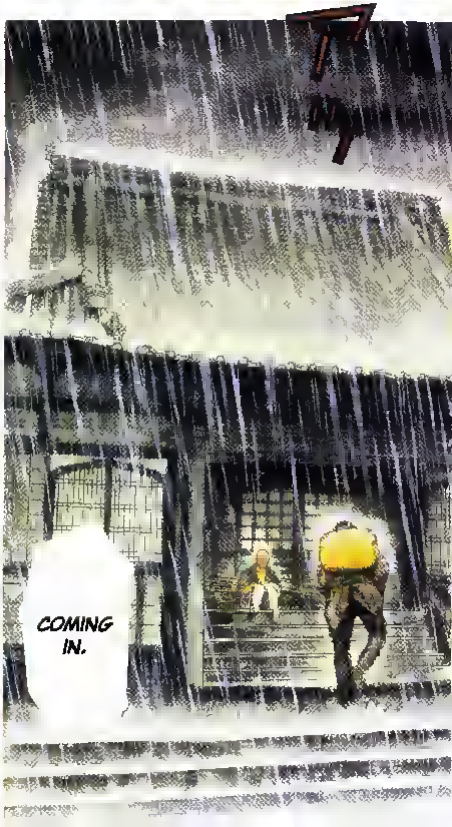
闇鍵師 2

【原作】中島かずき（劇団☆新感線）

【作画】赤名 修

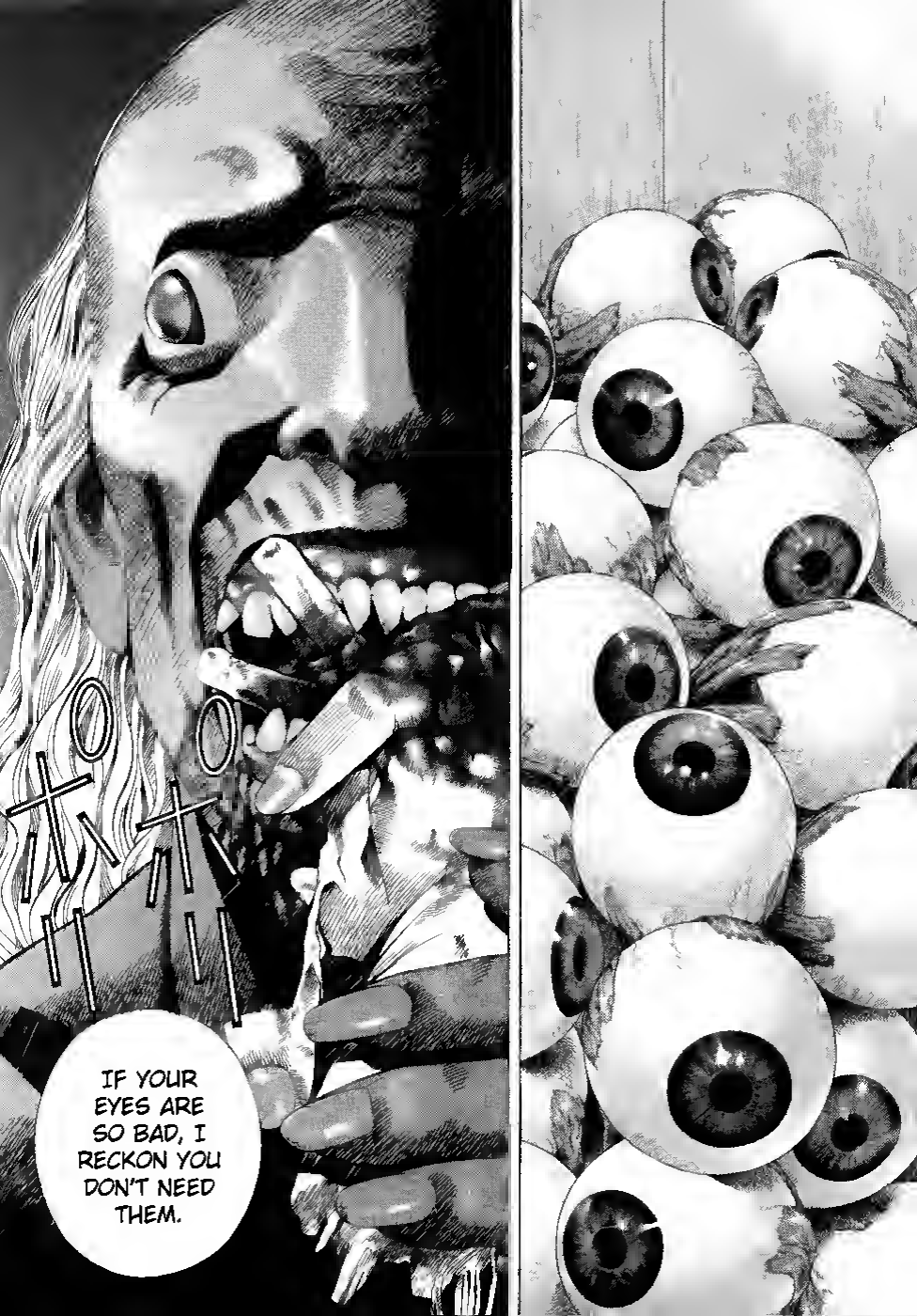
第9話◎十手と錠前 1

YOU'RE PRETTY MUCH SOAKED.
YEAH.
I'M SO OUT OF LUCK.


COMING IN.

FOR MY PART, I'VE BEEN SEEING IT COMING FOR QUITE SOME TIME.
EVEN MY LOINCLOTH IS DRIPPING WET.
I THOUGHT WE'D HAVE A LITTLE MORE THAN A COUPLE OF DROPLETS, BUT IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG TO TURN INTO THIS
YOUR GOODS?
VEGETABLES. IT'S GONNA BE BAD FOR BUSINESS IF THEY'RE NIBBLED ON.
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT PREDICTING THE WEATHER.
I CAN'T LET YOU HAVE YOUR WAY WITH MY TRADING GOODS JUST BECAUSE THERE'S SOME WATER ON THEM.
WHAT IS IT, OLD MAN?

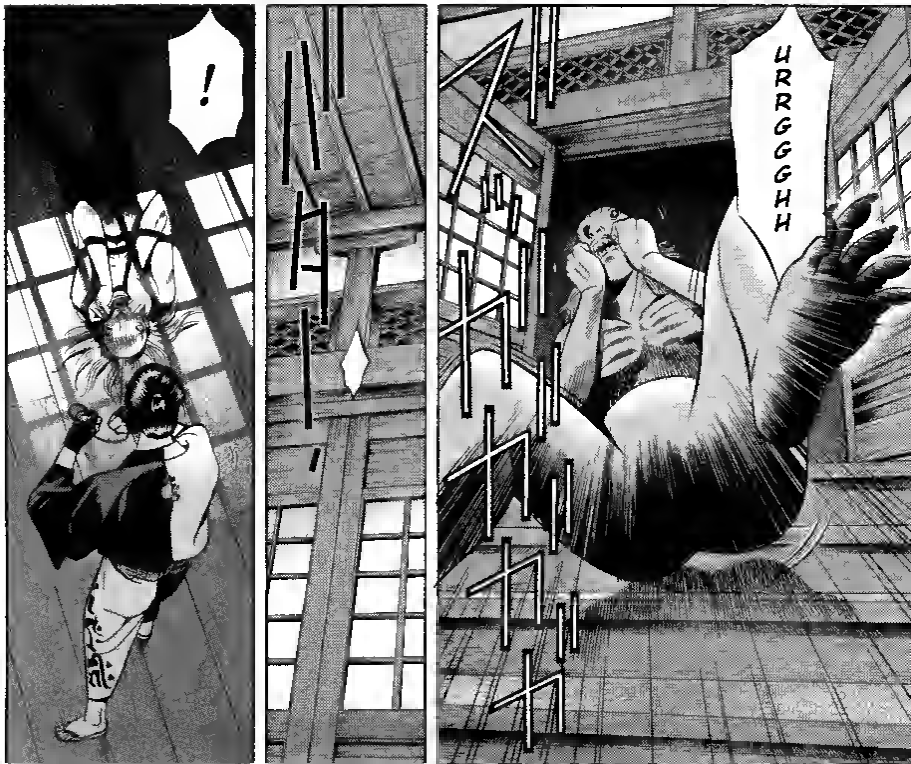
DOES THIS LOOK LIKE A PICKLE TO YOU?
YOU'RE AS GOOD AS BLIND, THEN.
SAY WHAT ?
LOOK.
!
I'LL LET YOU HAVE A LOOK AT THE CONTENTS OF THIS BUCKET.
WHAT DO YOU SEE?


IF YOUR EYES ARE SO BAD, I RECKON YOU DON'T NEED THEM.

WWAAAAH
HELP!!
I WILL BE TAKING THESE EYE-BALLS OF YOURS

ニュルル
ニュルル
！

LO


URRGGGHH
!

OLD MAN.
YOU WERE THE "EYE-CATCHER" PEOPLE WERE TALKING ABOUT, I SEE.
THAT LIFE IS DEMONIC IN NATURE.
YOU HAVE MORE THAN OUTLIVED YOUR TIME AS A HUMAN.
I COULDN'T CARE LESS FOR WHATEVER NAME THEY CALL ME.
WHAT I DO KNOW IS THAT I AM IMMORTAL.
GIFTED WITH ETERNAL LIFE.

YOU HAVE PRETTY EYES.
WHY DON'T YOU LET ME HAVE A BITE AT THEM?

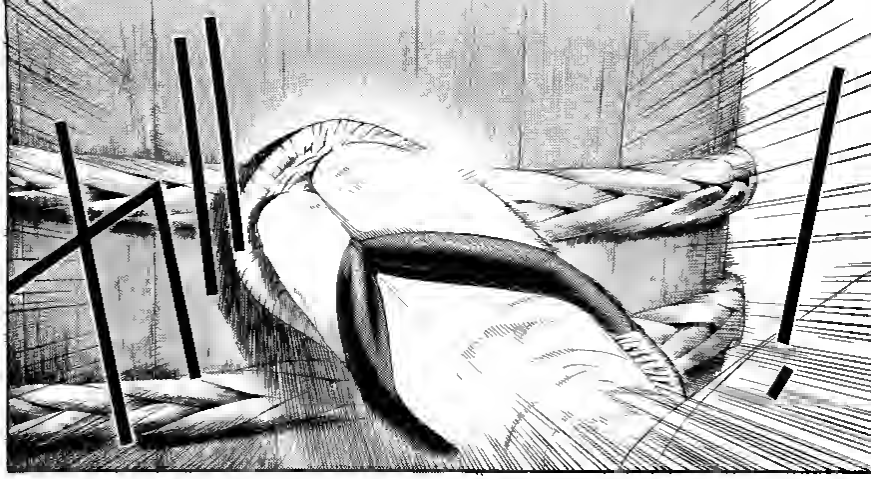
I'M GOING TO SHUT YOU AWAY.
WHEN THE DARKNESS IN PEOPLE'S HEARTS FINDS ITS WAY OUT, THEY ARE SUBMERGED BY EVIL.
A "DOORING" CONSISTS IN SEALING THAT EVIL WITHIN A LOCK
THEY WILL MOST CERTAINLY BE A DELIGHT.

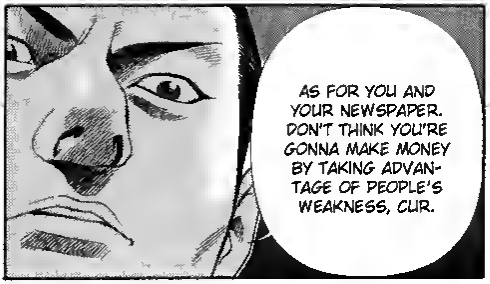
AAAAAARRRGH
HE WAS BARELY ABLE TO ESCAPE BACK HOME WITH HIS LIFE. FIND OUT THE FULL STORY HERE!
A SUNDRIES PEDDLER HAS BEEN ASSAULTED AS HE TOOK SHELTER FROM THE RAIN IN A RUN-DOWN TEMPLE!
HERE WE ARE. HERE WE ARE. THE EYE-CATCHER STRIKES AGAIN!

THE TONGUE CUTTER.
THE EYE-CATCHER.
THE EAR-CHOPPER.
KILLING OFF PEOPLE JUST TO CUT OFF THEIR EYES, EARS OR TONGUES. SO GROSS.
NO MAN WOULD EVER DO SUCH A THING
LOOK CLOSELY.
THESE ARE THE MOST FAMOUS THREE DEMONS OF EDO

SPOT ON.
THAT IS THE PURVIEW OF MONSTERS !!
ENOUGH OF THIS FARCE.
?
AND BEFORE THAT, THOSE DEAD WOMEN WHO WERE FOUND IN CHAINS.
WELL, MONSTERS WERE ALSO BEHIND THE DEED!

THE THREE DEMONS OF EDO, MY FOOT.
THERE ARE NO SUCH THINGS AS FIENDS OR GOBLINS.
TN: HACCHOUBORI... A TOWN MAGISTRATE WHO OVERSEES A DISTRICT (EDO PERIOD).
MASTER HACCHOU-BORI!!
WHOEVER COMMITTED THOSE CRIMES, THEY ARE HUMAN.
MEN PREY UPON OTHER MEN, AND THEY DO IT AS MEN.
SUCH IS OUR WORLD.



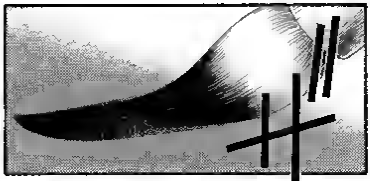

AS FOR YOU AND YOUR NEWSPAPER. DON'T THINK YOU'RE GONNA MAKE MONEY BY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF PEOPLE'S WEAKNESS, CUR.

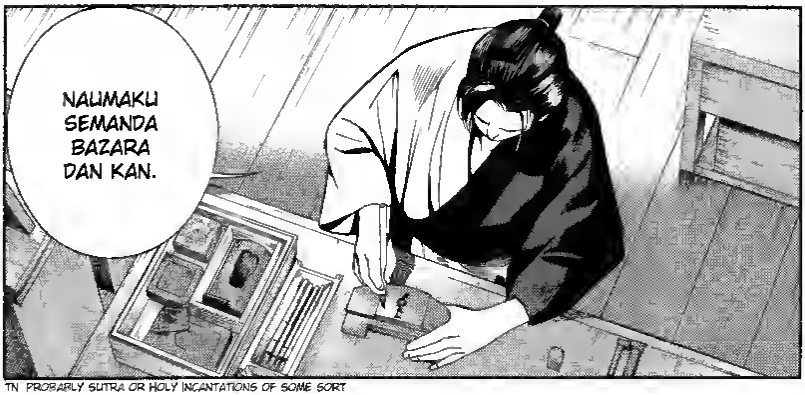
CERTAINLY NOT.
THAT WAS NOT MY INTENTION

DA!!!
MASTER DOMON !!

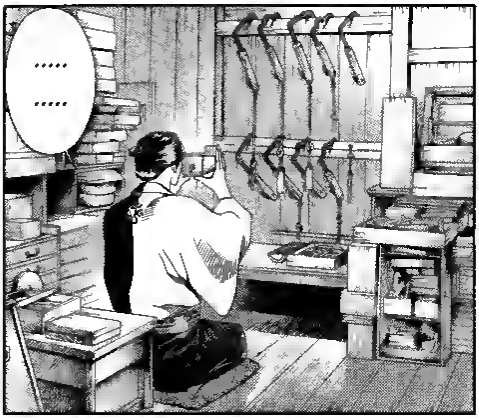
WE HAVE FOUND THE LOCKSMITH'S RESIDENCE.
WHAT IS IT, CHUUJI ?

ハ!





TN: PRORARLY SUTRA OR HOLY INCANTATIONS OF SOME SORT



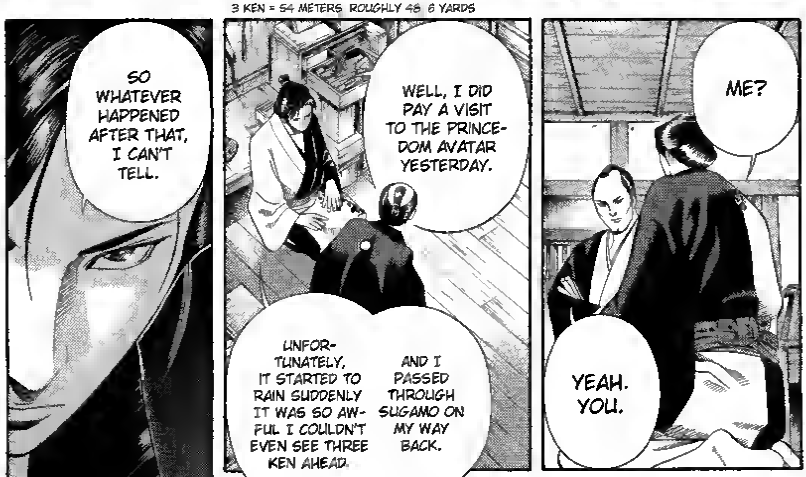
THE MAGISTRATE IN CHARGE OF THE NORTHERN PART OF TOWN DOMON THE DOUSHIN.
IF YOU HAVE A MINUTE, THERE'S A COUPLE OF THINGS I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU.
JOU-NOSUKE, THAT'S IT?
AND YOU ARE?
TN DOUSHIN: AN OFFICIAL WHO CARRIES OUT POLICE DUTIES
WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?
HAVE YOU HEARD THE RUMOR ABOUT THE EYE-CATCHER?

PEOPLE MURDERED, THEIR EYES GOUGED OUT. NOT SOMETHING A NORMAL HUMAN WOULD DO.
THEN, WE HAVE MORE OF THOSE MENTALS COMING OUT THE WOODWORK, LIKE THE EAR-CHOPPER AND THE TONGUE-CUTTER.
YES.
THERE HAS BEEN A SERIES OF DISTURBING KILLS RECENTLY.
.....
.....
WHATEVER CRIMES ARE COMMITTED IN THE HUMAN WORLD, THEY ARE PERPETRATED BY HUMAN BEINGS.
DEMONS AND THE LIKE DON'T EXIST.
YOU'D BE WELL-ADVISED NOT TO SPEAK OF THOSE THINGS WITH SUCH A SELF-IMPORTANT LOOK.
IF ANYONE HATES IT WHEN PEOPLE STICK CRIMES ON GOD KNOWS WHAT MONSTER'S BACK, THAT'S ME.
THE THREE DEMONS OF EDO.
NOT AGAIN!

IF DEMONS DO EXIST ANYWHERE,
THAT'D BE WITHIN PEOPLE'S HEARTS.
YOU ARE CORRECT.
TAKE THE EYE-CATCHER.
HIS TRUE IDENTITY WAS THAT OF AN UNREMARK-ABLE OLD MAN
INDEED.
GONZOU, A GLASSES MAKER IN THE MIGISHIMA DISTRICT.
HE WASN'T BAD, BUT HE WAS A BIT OF AN ECCENTRIC, SO HE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH OF A SOCIAL LIFE.
RUMOR HAS IT HIS LOOKS HAD TURNED RATHER STRANGE, RECENTLY.
WHEN WE INVESTIGATED HIS ABSENCE, WE FOUND MORE CORPSES THAN I DARE TO COUNT, BURIED UNDER THE FLOOR IN HIS HOUSE.

THINKING THAT'S WHERE OUR MAN WAS, WE RUSHED TOWARDS THE PLACE
WE SET OUT TO CHASE HIM IMMEDIATELY.
WE FOUND A PEDDLER ATTACKED BY GONZOU IN A WAYSIDE SHRINE NEAR SUGAMO.

3 KEN = 54 METERS, ROUGHLY 48.6 YARDS


SO WHATEVER HAPPENED AFTER THAT, I CAN'T TELL.
WELL, I DID PAY A VISIT TO THE PRINCEDOM AVATAR YESTERDAY.
UNFORTUNATELY, IT STARTED TO RAIN SUDDENLY IT WAS SO AWFUL I COULDN'T EVEN SEE THREE KEN AHEAD.
AND I PASSED THROUGH SUGAMO ON MY WAY BACK.
ME?
YEAH. YOU.

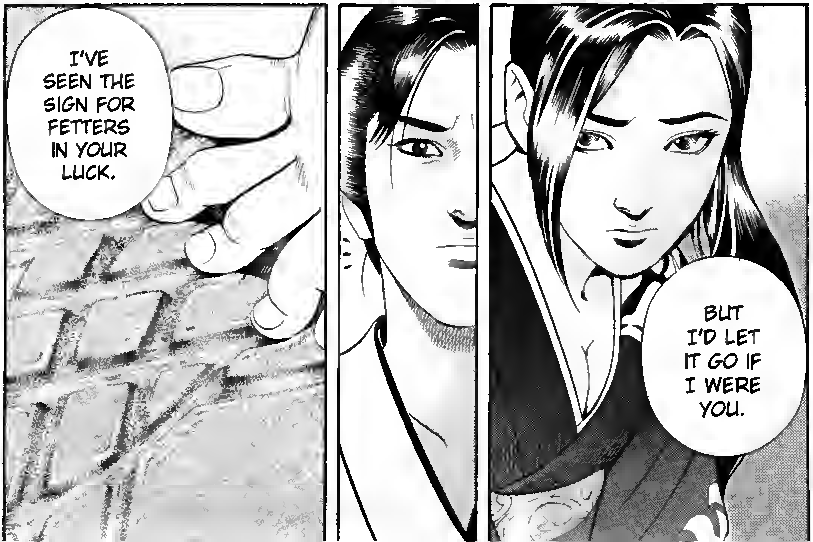
YOU ARE ONE DAMN FAST TALKER ALRIGHT.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO.
PUT DIFFERENTLY, IT ALSO MEANS IF ANYONE SAW YOU, THEY COULD HAVE BEEN MISTAKEN BECAUSE OF THE RAIN.
AND IF I TOLD YOU SOMEONE SAW YOU COMING OUT OF THE SHRINE WHERE GONZOU WAS.
WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THAT?
PLEASE TELL THEM THIS.
THE RAIN YESTERDAY WAS REALLY AWFUL.
.....
.....

NO EXCEPTIONS. EVEN IF THE VICTIM IS A MURDERER.
THAT'S THE BLUDGEON-CARRIERS' JOB.
ALRIGHT. MAKE SURE YOU REMEMBER THIS.
WE MAGISTRATES ARE THE ONES OFFICIALLY IN CHARGE OF PUNISHING CRIMINALS.
TN: IN THE EDO PERIOD, OKAMACHI (HERE SHITEMOCHI, THE BLUDGEON-CARRIERS) WAS THE NAME OF THE SECRET POLICE, OR DETECTIVES.
I DON'T CARE IF YOU ACT OUT OF RIGHTEOUS ANGER OR WHAT-HAVE-YOU. IF TOWNSPEOPLE LIKE YOU START KILLING PEOPLE, I WON'T THINK TWICE BEFORE ARRESTING THEM.

第10話◎十手と銃前 2

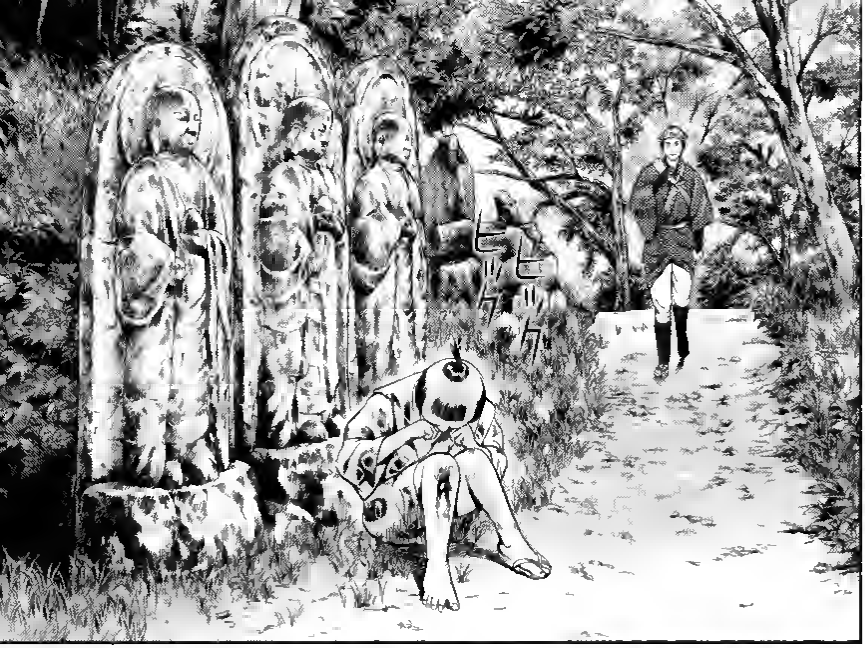
TN: BUDDHA STATUE PROTECTING TRAVELERS

TN: EAST-NORTHEAST



YOU TOLD ME THE DOU-SHIN CAME BY YESTERDAY, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU MEAN DOMON, THE MAGISTRATE IN CHARGE OF THE NORTHERN DISTRICT?
WE HAVE A HACCHOUBORI WITH A CLUE FOR ONCE. I WASN'T EXPECTING THAT.
JOU-SAN HE MUST HAVE SET HIS EYES UP-ON YOU.
THIS COULD BE DANGER-OUS.
O-KIN. TAKE CARE OF THE PLACE WHILE I'M OFF.
.....
.....
WAIT. JOU-SAN, I SAID WAIT!

.....
.....
DOORING IS MY JOB.
I CAN'T JUST STOP DOING IT.


ヒック
ヒック

I CAN NOT MAKE OUT WHAT YOU SAY IF YOU'RE CRYING.
ARE YOU A-LONE?
WHERE IS YOUR HOME?

.....
.....
グスン
グスン

WHAT'S WRONG MY BOY?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? DID YOU LOSE YOUR MOM ?

?
I DIDN'T THINK THERE WOULD BE A VILLAGE IN SUCH A PLACE.
흐윽!
BOOO-HOO!
DON'T CRY.
COME ON
LET ME CARRY YOU THERE.

UH?

NICE EARS, YOU GOT THERE.
EH?

HOW STRANGE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANYBODY IS ACTUALLY LIVING HERE.
ARE YOU REALLY SURE IT'S HERE, BOY?

レロッレロ〜

THAT TICKLES.
STOP IT, WILL YOU?
OW !!
LET ME HAVE YOUR EARS.

HIIIIIIC
きゃあああ
AHHHHHH

!!
THIS IS THE END FOR YOU, EAR-CHOPPER !!

I KNEW SOMEONE WAS COMING.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOUR BUSINESS IS.
BUT A HUMAN LIKE YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY EXPECT TO DEFEAT ME?

BOL-
LOCKS
!!
THIS IS NOT ABOUT VICTORY OR DEFEAT.
I'M MERELY GOING TO SEAL YOU INTO THIS LOCK. THAT'S ALL.

NOTHING CAN SAVE YOU NOW.

I'LL BE TAKING YOUR EARS.

AAARGH.
THIS IS MADE OUT OF A SPECIAL MATERIAL
DEMONS LIKE YOURSELF CAN'T SO MUCH AS TOUCH IT.

LET ME GOOOO.
I WON'T DO BAD THINGS ANY MORE.
WAIT!
WA
I'M GOING TO LOCK YOU AWAY.
EAR-CHOPPER.
I DON'T WANT TO LISTEN TO A GUY WHO LOPS OFF PEOPLE'S EARS.

LANTERN: OFFICIAL BUSINESS.
!
御用
CHUUJI-SAN WHAT IS THAT?
THAT'S THE SAME LIGHT I SAW ON THAT RAINY DAY!

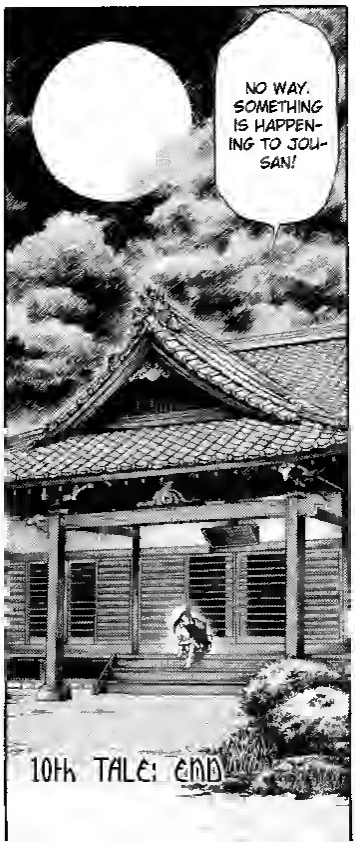
POLICE!
御用
御用
EVERYONE FOLLOW ME!
THE CRIMINAL'S INSIDE.
御用
御用
.....
.....

.....
.....
ササラララ
WHAT IS THAT THING? ACK. BAD MOJO.
.....
.....
HOW DID THEY FIND OUT A-BOUT THIS PLACE?
SEARCH THE HOUSE!
HE CAN'T BE FAR!

IT CAN'T BE!
SO IT WAS YOU AFTER ALL, LOCK-SMITH.
御用
!!

THE MOON IS FULL TONIGHT. SEEING 3 KEN OR EVEN 10 KEN AHEAD SHOULDN'T POSE ANY PROBLEM.
NO FOOLING AROUND THIS TIME.
YOU ARE LARGELY OUTNUMBERED. BE REASONABLE, JOUNOSUKE.
MASTER DOMON...

.....
.....


NO WAY. SOMETHING IS HAPPENING TO JOU-SAN!
10TH TALE: END

OUCH !!
イ
ト
.....
.....

WE KNOW YOU'VE KILLED THEM!
SPIT IT OUT ALREADY!
第11話◎十手と錠前3
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE EYE-CATCHER AND THE EAR-CHOPPER ?!

.....
.....

PER-
SISTENT
SON OF A
BITCH!

MASTER
DOMON!
ガラ"

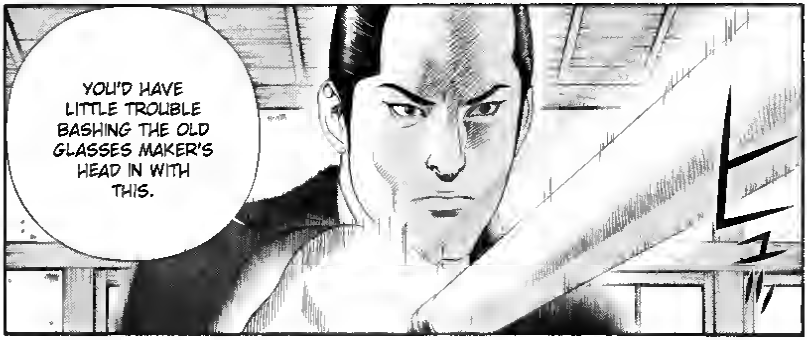
CHUU-JI. YOU DAMNED FOOL!
WHO TOLD YOU TO PUT HIM THROUGH QUESTION-ING?!
I CAN'T FIGURE THIS BASTARD OUT. WE SHOULD THROW HIM IN JAIL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
MASTER.

I TAKE IT HE WAS CARRYING THESE
YES.
HAS HE CONFESSED TO ANY OF THE CRIMES ?
NO. NOT YET.
THE DECO-RATION ON THE LOCK IS IN VERY BAD TASTE, DON'T YOU THINK?
THAT'S A FAIRLY ELABORATE THING TO BE WALKING AROUND WITH.
I'VE GOT SOME MISGIVINGS ABOUT THE THING MY-SELF

CARE-
FUL, YOU
BLOODY
IDIOT.
FORGIVE
ME. IT
SLIPPED
OUT OF MY
HANDS.

ニャ
!
.....
.....
JOUNO-SUKE.
WHAT'S THIS?
I POKE A HOLE INTO A WALL AND USE THIS TO UNBOLT THE DOOR FROM THE INSIDE.
THE MECHANISM ALLOWS ME TO ALTER IT DEPENDING ON THE WALL'S LENGTH AND THICKNESS
A STORE-HOUSE KEY.

AND THIS IS HOW I THINK YOU'D BE USING IT.
.....
.....


YOU'D HAVE LITTLE TROUBLE BASHING THE OLD GLASSES MAKER'S HEAD IN WITH THIS.

DON'T YOU DARE ADDRESS ME WITH SUCH IMPUDENCE !!
EVEN A CARPENTER'S TOOLS WOULD LOOK LIKE INSTRUMENTS OF MURDER IN YOUR EYES.

THE EYE CATCHER AND THE EAR-CHOPPER'S TRACES DISAPPEARED SUDDENLY AFTER THEY MADE CONTACT WITH YOU.
YOU DID THEM IN.
HOW DID YOU KNOW I'D BE THERE?
CHUU-JI'S BEEN STICKING TO YOU LIKE GLUE.
.....
.....

FOR NOW, I JUST WANT TO GO SEAL THE TONGUE-CUTTER AWAY. THAT'S ABOUT IT.
MAYBE YOU'RE PRESUMPTUOUS ENOUGH TO THINK YOU CAN HUNT CRIMINALS.
BUT THAT'S THE AUTHORITIES' JOB
IF THE TOWNSFOLK START DOING AS THEY PLEASE, IT WILL ONLY HELP BUILD MORE GRUDGES AND RESENTMENT.
THAT RESENTMENT IS FOR THE BLUDGEON-CARRIERS TO TAKE.
DO YOU HAVE THE KIND OF RESOLVE THAT ENTAILS?

I KNOW WHAT YOU FEEL
BUT THERE ARE THINGS IN THIS WORLD THAT YOU JUST CAN'T SEE
I WAS WONDERING IF YOU WOULD CARE TO GRACE ME WITH A FEW MORE OF YOUR WITTY COME-BACKS.
THAT'S A "DOORING", AND THAT'S MY JOB
THAT AGAIN?
THAT LOCK OF MINE, WITH THE MON-STROUS FACE.
THERE'S A DEMON SEALED IN IT.

IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, WHY DON'T YOU HAVE CHUUJI-SAN INSPECT IT?
CHUUJI?
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GOING TO BELIEVE ANY-THING COMING OUT OF THIS BASTARD'S MOUTH.
DO IT, AND YOU'LL FIND OUT WHETHER I'M TELLING THE TRUTH OR NOT IMMEDIATELY.

CHUUJI!
WHAT'S WRONG?
THAT MAN YOU HAVE SET ON MY TRAIL IS NO ORDINARY HUMAN.
DOORING IS A JOB THAT REQUIRES ONE TO PAY CAREFUL ATTENTION
I'M EAGER TO PUT AN END TO THIS SENSELESS BABBLE.
BUT.
COME ON. JUST TAKE IT !!

!!
ユウト
きゃあ
AAAAARGH

CHUUJI. ARE YOU ALRIGHT ?!
HANG IN THERE.
ゴゴゴ
SHUT UP.

UUH
THAT HURT.
YOUR TONGUE.
WHY DON'T YOU SHOW IT TO ME?

!!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!

I'M GONNA HAVE TO PULL IT OUT, THEN.
AGH.

LET ME EAT YOUR TONGUE.

MASTER.
A DEMON CANNOT BE KILLED BY A NORMAL BLADE!
UUURGH.

WHAT!!
ANYWAY, TAKE THESE STONES OFF QUICKLY.
THEY'RE PARTICULARLY FOND OF NEGATIVE EMOTIONS LIKE GREED OR FEAR, AND PRIDE IS THE ICING ON THE CAKE.
THE DEMON REALM'S DENIZENS COME HERE.
HOW COME CHULIJI HAS TURNED INTO A MONSTER?
WHEN A HUMAN BEING SUCCUMBS TO THEIR OWN GREED, THEIR HEART IS EATEN AWAY, AND THE DOOR TO DARKNESS OPENS.
AND THEY FEED OFF HUMAN HEARTS.
HIS HEART AND SOUL HAVE BEEN EATEN AWAY.
HOH!

THEN, THAT DARKNESS TAKES UP RESIDENCE WITHIN THEIR BODY.
AND THEY START DEVOURING OTHER HUMAN BEINGS.
WHY WAS CHUUJI SO DESPERATE TO CAPTURE YOU?
HE PROBABLY WANTED TO HAVE ME TIED UP AND THROWN IN JAIL, IN ORDER TO ESCAPE THE DOORING.
!
FOR APPOINTING ME INTO THE OKAPPIKI.
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT, MASTER

ARRESTING BAD GUYS AND HAVE THEM CONFESS THEIR CRIMES.
TONGUES MOVE ABOUT, PRETTY MUCH AS LIVING CREATURES IN THEIR OWN RIGHT.
NO MATTER HOW SCARY THE FELLOW COULD BE YOU'D PUT HIM THROUGH SO MUCH PAIN HE'D SPILL THE BEANS LIKE THERE WAS NO TOMORROW
BASTARD!
I COULD NOT HELP MYSELF.
SOME DAY, I THOUGHT SOMETHING THAT MOVES THIS MUCH ON ITS OWN MUST BE DELICIOUS THAT I'D LIKE TO TRY IT
.....
.....
!

MASTER. STAND ASIDE.
I'LL START THE DOOR-ING.

.....
.....
SO ALL THOSE LOCKS ARE DEMONS YOU HAVE SEALED?
YES.

TO THINK THAT MANY DEMONS EXISTED HERE IN OUR WORLD.
THEY DID. AND I HATE TO SAY IT,
BUT THERE ARE JUST AS MANY OF THEM OUT THERE.
TN: PRINCE IEYASU
INITIALLY, EDO WAS CREATED BY IEYASU-KIMI FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEMON SEALING.
NEVER HEARD THAT ONE BEFORE.
THAT'D MAKE EDO A REAL DEMON TOWN.
PEOPLE LIKE ME ARE HERE TO MAKE SURE IT DOESN'T HAPPEN.
.....
.....

JUST LIKE SAMURAIDOM, THIS DUTY HAS BEEN PASSED ON, FROM ONE GENERATION TO ANOTHER.
THOSE DEMON SEALERS ARE HERE IN TOWN, LYING IN SILENT WAIT.
WHICH IS TO SAY SAMURAI ALONE DON'T SUFFICE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BELIEVE ME.
IF THE TOWN MAGISTRATE IS THE ONE IN CHARGE OF PROTECTING EDO FROM CRIMINALS,
WE ARE THOSE WHO PROTECT IT FROM DEMONS.
YOU PROTECT EDO DURING DAYLIGHT, MASTER.
AND WE DO THE SAME COME NIGHTFALL.
I UNDERSTAND.

IF IT'S INDEED AS YOU SAY.
THEN FRONT AND BACK, AND INDEED DAY AND NIGHT WILL PROBABLY OVERLAP SOMEDAY.
BUT IT'S NOT EASY FOR ME TO SWALLOW ALL OF THIS AT ONCE.
WHEN IT HAPPENS, WE'LL MEET AGAIN.

第12話 大晦の母影
おおつごもり
1
IT'S DONE.

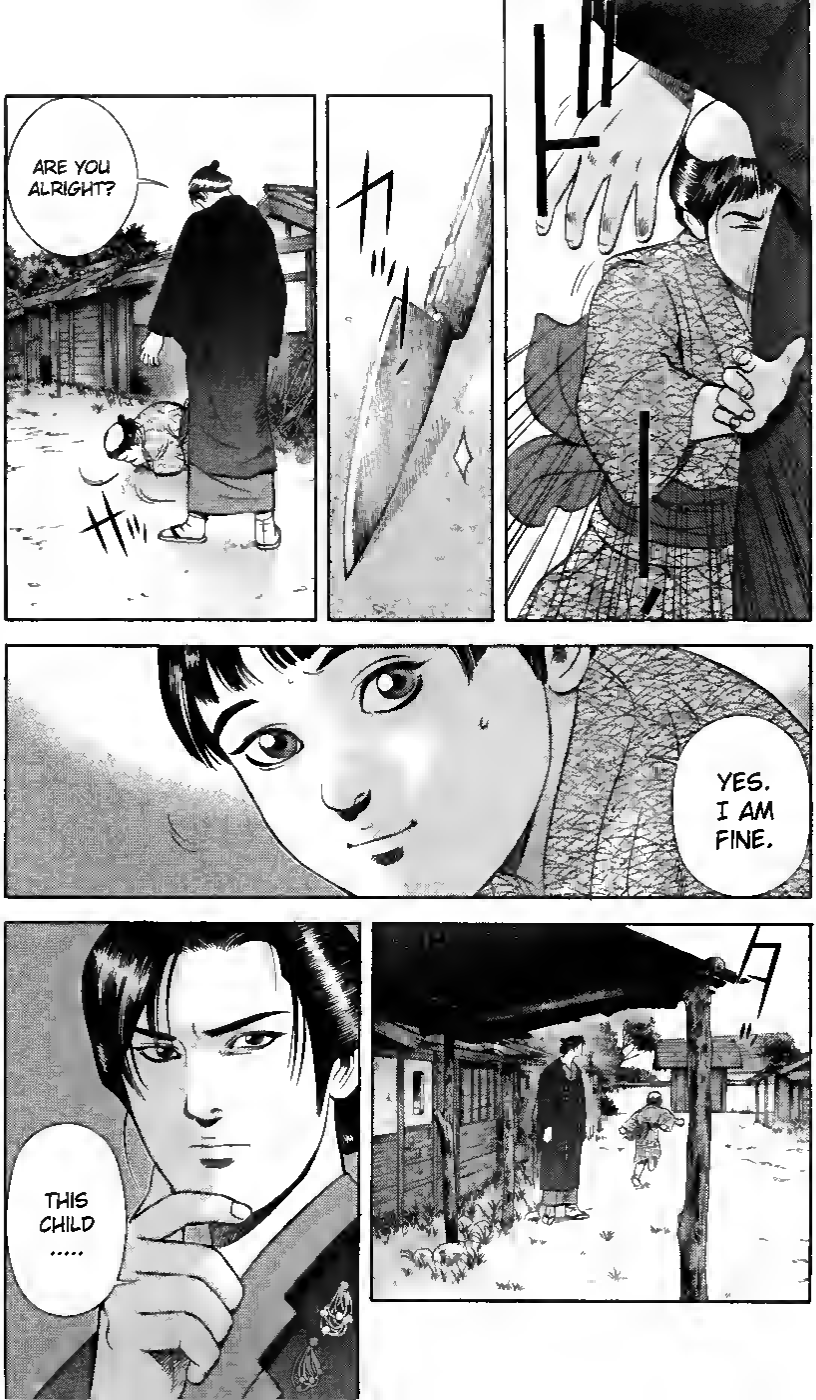
THOSE LOCK DECORATIONS ARE SPLENDID.

I RECOGNIZE YOUR STYLISHNESS IN THIS, JOUNOSUKE.
BENEATH THE DRAGON'S SCALES?
NOW I CAN WELCOME THE NEW YEAR IN A GOOD DISPOSITION.

AND HERE'S THE KEYHOLE.

I'LL TAKE THIS ALONG WITH YOUR APPRECIATION, THEN.
THIS IS TOO MUCH.
THIS IS FOR YOU.
PLEASE DON'T EMBARRASS HIM.
THIS IS OLD OUMIYA'S APPRECIATION.
I'VE BEEN MONOPOLIZING EDO'S BEST LOCKSMITH UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR.

JOU-SAN!
.....
.....
WHO DID HE BUY THIS FOR?


ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
YES. I AM FINE.
THIS CHILD .....

EXCUSE ME.
ANYONE?
.....
.....

DID YOU GET USED TO YOUR JOB AS A HAIR-DRESSER?
I'M DOING GOOD ENOUGH, AND THERE'S NO SHORTAGE OF CUSTO-MERS.
EH, O-SAYO-CHAN. BACK FROM WORK?
IN-DEED.
I'M BACK.
ガラ
I'LL BE GOING, MA'AM. TAKICHI'S ALONE AND HE'S WAITING FOR ME.
MUST BE HARD TO BE PROVIDING FOR YOUR LITTLE BROTHER.

!!
カニャァァ!
IT'S HIM!
HE PUT THOSE THINGS THERE.

.....
.....
IT'S YOU, ISN'T IT? YOU ARE THE ONE WHO'S BEEN SNEAKING AROUND, LEAVING MONEY BEHIND!
YEAH. THAT'S RIGHT. MY LITTLE BROTHER HAS SOMETHING TO EAT, THANKS TO ME.
SO YOU HAVE STARTED TO WORK AS A HAIRDRESSER ?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR INTENTIONS ARE. BUT I DON'T NEED MONEY FROM YOU.
I DIDN'T USE A SINGLE MON OF IT!
BUT EVEN WHEN I WAS JOBLESS, AS SOON AS I FOUND OUT THE MONEY CAME FROM YOU,

I WANT NO MONEY FROM MY MOTHER'S MURDERER.
!!
.....
.....
I WOULDN'T WANT TO SEE YOUR FACE IF YOU WERE THE LAST MAN LEFT ON EARTH.
NEVER COME BACK AGAIN.
NEXT TIME I SEE YOU, I'LL CALL THE POLICE!

THAT WAS NO WAY TO TREAT SUCH A NICE HAIRPIN.
O-KIN!
WHO IS SHE?
O-SAYO.
SHE WILL BE ABOUT... 15 ON THE NEW YEAR.
AND YOU'VE "DOORED" HER MOTHER?
NO. SHE WAS KILLED BY A DEMON.
DIDN'T SHE SAY YOU DID IT?!

IT WAS ABOUT 4 YEARS AGO.

O-SAYO. RUN AWAY, QUICK!

AAAAAAH!
.....
.....

I'M TOO LATE !!
...
...
I'M GOING TO SHUT YOU AWAY

LET ME GO.
I SAID LET ME GO!
SOME-HOW IN THE GIRL'S MIND, IT BECAME MY FAULT.
HOLD HIM FAST.
WE'RE GONNA TEACH HIM NEVER TO DO THAT AGAIN. PHY-SICALLY.

!!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU ?
HE'S JUST A CHILD.
LOOK.

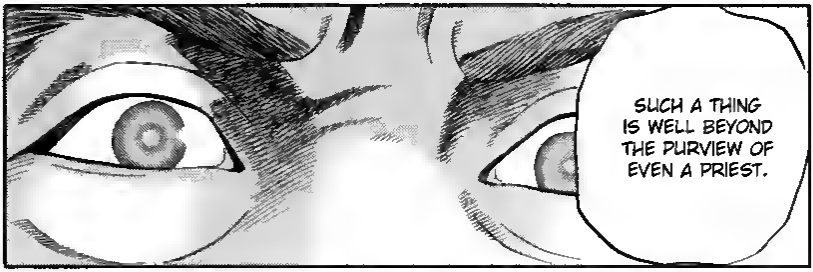
IN A CEREMONY ON THE NEW YEAR THAT INVOLVES STRIKING A GONG (OR APPARENTLY RINGING A BELL) 108 TIMES TO CHASE EVIL SPIRITS AWAY

MOVE!
OUT OF MY WAY!
!

ボタ
ボタ
I DIDN'T MEAN TO.
.....
.....
コト
00
WHEN YOU HURT OTHERS, YOUR OWN HEART STARTS TO BLEED AS WELL.
MAKE SURE YOU REMEMBER THAT PAIN.
.....
TAKE A GOOD LOOK.
IT HURTS YOU TOO, DOESN'T IT?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

TN: IN BUDDHISM, ANYTHING PERTAINING TO FLESH AND BLOOD IS DEEMED UNCLEAN. FOR EXAMPLE, THE JAPANESE DIDN'T CONSUME MEAT AT ALL

IS YOUR WOUND GOING TO BE AL-RIGHT?
FOR-GIVE ME FOR DEFILING YOUR PREMISES WITH MY BLOOD.
WE HAVE UNTIL TO-NIGHT TO FIX THE ROPES.
LET THE GENTLEMAN HERE DEAL WITH HIM
WE'VE JUST CAPTURED HIM, AND WE WERE ABOUT TO LEAVE
YES, I KNOW. I HEARD THE CHILD



TN: BUDDHIST PRAYER

BUT WE CAN'T CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR IN THOSE CONDITIONS
I DON'T WANT THEM TO RING THE BELLS.
WHY DID YOU PULL SUCH A PRANK?
AND O-SAYO-NEE-CHAN.
IF ONLY MUMMY WAS THERE. FOR ME
GOING AS FAR AS TO CARRY A KNIFE AROUND
クスン
BUT THEIR MOTHER DIED 4 YEARS AGO.
SO YOU'RE O-SAYO'S BROTHER?

IF THEY RING THE BELL FOR THE NEW YEAR, IT WILL HURT MUMMY FROM INSIDE THE MIRROR!
MUMMY.
.....
...?!
JUST A LITTLE MORE AND MUMMY WILL DIS-APPEAR!

MUMMY.
.....
.....
12th TALE: END

IT IS JUST AS YOU SAID, JOU-SAN.
……第13話◎大晦の母
おおつごもり
京
2

A HAND MIRROR WITH PEONY-SHAPED PATTERNS.
O-SAYO-CHAN'S MOTHER'S HAND MIRROR I KNEW IT.
SHE HID IT AWAY IMMEDIATELY THOUGH.
IT WAS THERE WHEN THE DEMON ATTACKED HER
HOW COME THE SUPPOSEDLY DEAD MOTHER CAN APPEAR INSIDE THE MIRROR?

PROBABLY A REFLECTION OF HER REGRETS.
.....
.....
AND WHAT ABOUT THE MOTHER'S IMAGE BECOMING WEAKER EACH YEAR WITH THE RINGING OF THE BELLS?
SOME OTHER TIMES, WHEN A MIRROR IS NEARBY, THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS.
FREQUENTLY, WHEN A HUMAN BEING IS KILLED BY A DEMON, THEIR FACE APPEARS ON MY EVIL-SEALING LOCKS.
SOMETIMES AS CHANCE WOULD HAVE IT THEIR REGRETS AND OTHER FEELINGS ARE IMPRINTED INTO THE LOCKS DEMON-SEALING POWERS.

THE NEW YEAR'S BELLS ARE THERE TO CLEAR AWAY PEOPLE'S EARTHLY DESIRES.
SO WHEN THE BELLS HAVE BEEN RUNG TONIGHT, THE MOTHER'S IMAGE WILL DISAPPEAR COMPLETELY?
MAYBE THE DEAD'S FEELINGS OF REGRET GO AWAY AS WELL.
PRO-BABLY, YES.
JOU-SAN.
CAN YOU DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT?
I HAVE A JOB I NEED TO TAKE CARE OF FIRST.
THE PRIEST AT THE SANSHOKU TEMPLE. YES?

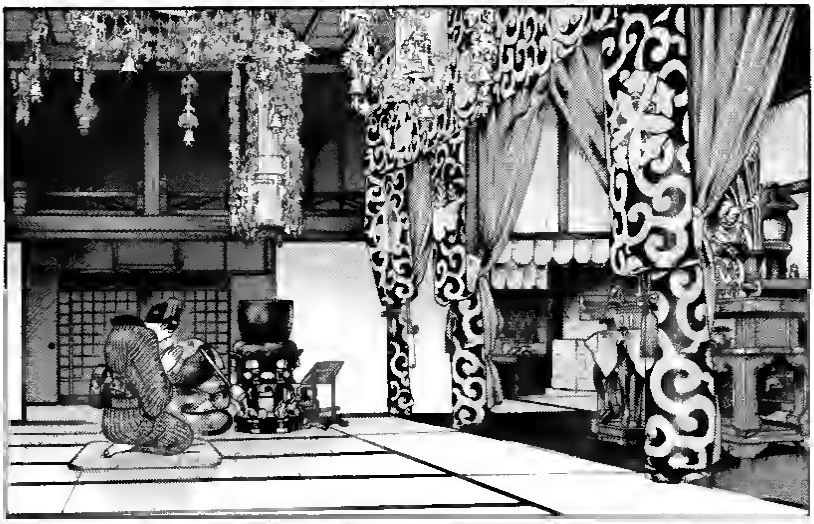
THOSE EYES OF HIS, WHEN HE SAW THE BLOOD.
THERE CAN BE NO MIS-TAKE.
SANSHOKU TEMPLE

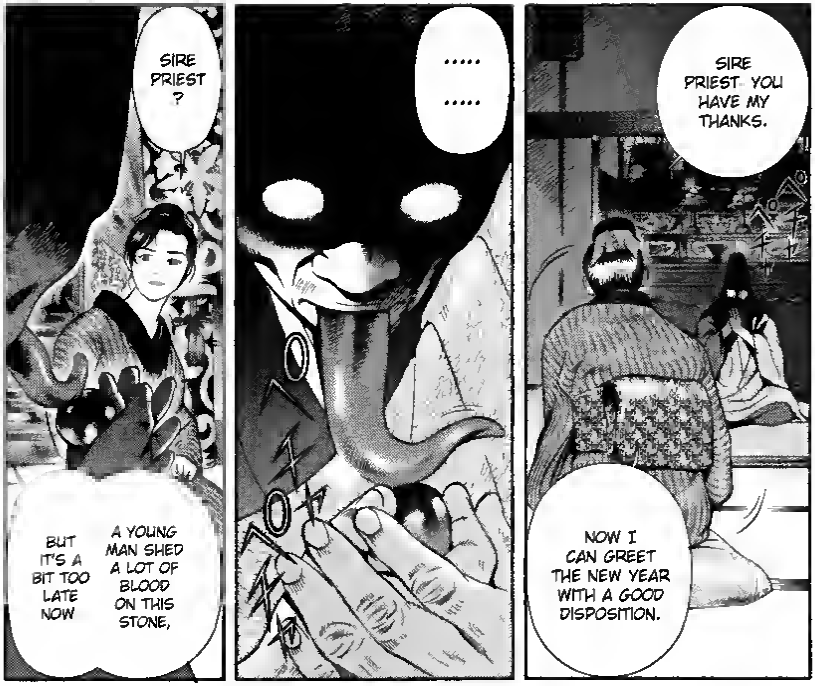
EX-CUSE ME.
IS THE RESIDENT PRIEST HERE?
THAT'S ME. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
I'VE COME TO APOLO-GISE.
MY BROTH-ER DID SOMETHING REALLY TERRIBLE
AAH. FOR TODAY.
I'M REALLY SORRY.
THIS IS WHAT YOU'VE COME ALL THE WAY HERE FOR?
AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?
I HAD TO WAIT FOR MY LITTLE BROTHER TO FALL ASLEEP

IT'S NOT MUCH, BUT PLEASE ACCEPT IT.
CONSIDER THIS A SMALL COMPENSATION FOR THE ROPES HE HAS CUT OFF.
I CAN'T TAKE IT.
BUT THIS IS MY WAY OF BEGGING FORGIVE-NESS
USE THE MONEY TO BUY SOME TREAT FOR YOURSELF AND YOUR LITTLE BROTHER.
I CAN'T DO THAT.

CERTAIN-LY. PLEASE SHOW ME THE WAY.
YOU'D BE DOING AN ACT OF PIETY.
WHY DON'T YOU CONSIDER TURNING TO BUDDHA?
IF YOU REALLY FEEL THAT WAY,
FOLLOW ME.

JOU-SAN. I HAVE GRAVE NEWS.
I SAW O-SAYO-CHAN WHILE WORKING MY DIVINATION ON THE PRIEST!
WHAT?!




SIRE PRIEST ?
BUT IT'S A BIT TOO LATE NOW
A YOUNG MAN SHED A LOT OF BLOOD ON THIS STONE,
.....
.....
SIRE PRIEST. YOU HAVE MY THANKS.
NOW I CAN GREET THE NEW YEAR WITH A GOOD DISPOSITION.

.....
.....
BEHOLD.
PAR-
DON?
WHY DON'T YOU SHARE SOME OF YOUR FRESH BLOOD WITH ME?

THEY SAY THE NEW YEAR'S BELLS WASH IMPURE DESIRES AWAY WHEN STRICKEN 108 TIMES.
BUT WHEN I HEAR THEM, EVERY FIBER OF MY BODY BURNS WITH A FIERCE APPETITE THAT JUST WON'T FADE AWAY.
あっ
ヤメロ
AAAAAH
オオオオー!!

HIC.
NOOOOOOO.
PLEASE HELP ME SLAKE MY THIRST.

!!
ARGH.

O-KIN. TAKE CARE OF THE GIRL.
SIRE PRIEST.
YOU HAVE SUCCUMBED TO YOUR IMPURE DESIRES, ENOUGH SO TO BECOME A DEMON.
YOU'RE THE ONE FROM EARLIER TODAY!
I'M GOING TO SHUT YOU AWAY!

DON'T THINK I'M GOING TO THANK YOU OF ALL PEOPLE JUST BECAUSE YOU SAVED MY LIFE.
ARE YOU HURT?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO.
I DID NOT MAKE IT IN TIME, AND YOUR MOTHER PAID THE PRICE.
THAT'S WHY AT LEAST I HAD TO SAVE YOU.
BUT I COULDN'T ADMIT IT.
THE LIKES OF MONSTERS DO NOT EXIST.
AND YOU CAN'T HATE SOMETHING THAT ISN'T THERE.
...I KNEW.
YOU DID NOT KILL MY MOTHER. THE MONSTER DID.
.....
.....

IT'S ALRIGHT.
I'M SORRY.
THAT IS WHY I SETTLED FOR HATING YOU INSTEAD.
I KNEW EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED .....
I COULD NOT KEEP ON LIVING OTHERWISE.

IT'S A GOOD THING YOU'RE ALIVE.
YOU ARE ALIVE, AND THAT IS WHAT COUNTS.
?
TO YOUR MOTHER! ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?
WHERE TO?
BEFORE THEY'RE DONE RING-ING THE BELLS
COME ON, LET'S HURRY
ゴオオオオ!

TAKE A FEW STEPS ASIDE.
LIKE THIS?
?!
カタカタ

MUMMY.

MUMMY!
スヤ・

NOW YOU CAN ALWAYS BE TOGETHER.
YOUR MOTHER'S MEMORIES WILL NOT DISAPPEAR ANYMORE.

JOU-SAN, LOOK.

IT'S THE NEW YEAR'S SUNRISE.
13TH TALE: END

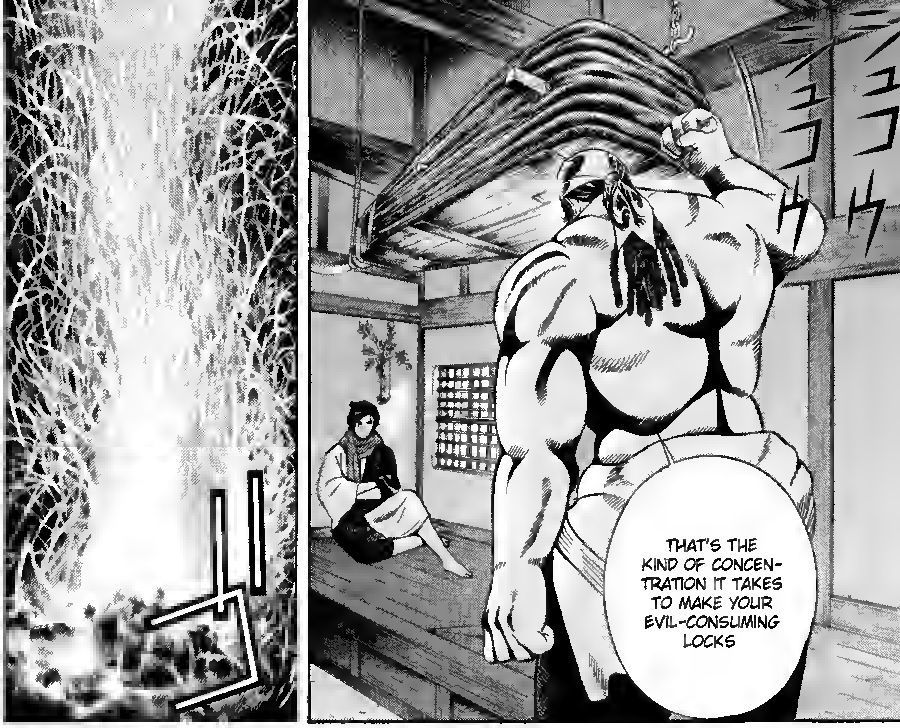
キィ!

カキィ
カキィ
カキィ!

第14話◎秘錠の密偵 1
キーイー

カキキィ!!
ミシュミシュ…
……
……
ギチ

WHEN YOU STRIKE ON THOSE LOCKS, YOU CAN'T SEE ANYTHING ELSE.
THAT'S SO MUCH LIKE YOU, TETSU-JUU.
IF THAT ISN'T CON-CENTRATION, I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS.
THAT YOU, JOU-NOSUKE? SO YOU WERE HERE?



カキィ!
IN THE OLD DAYS, THIS STOCK WOULD HAVE LASTED AN ENTIRE YEAR.
BUT RECENTLY, THAT HAS BEEN B. RELY ENOUGH LOCKS FOR HALF THE SAME TIME.
カキィ!
THE WORLD IS STARTING TO CRACK OPEN.
THE KEKKAI ON EDO MUST BE WEAKENING.

TN MYSTICAL BARRIER

IF YOU SAY SO. I'M JUST THE SMITH.
MY JOB IS TO FORGE THE LOCKS.
MAYBE A FISSURE IS BEGINNING TO FORM SOME WHERE.
FROM THERE, EVIL WOULD BE SPREADING INTO THE WORLD.

ミシュマ
BRINGING THE FINAL TOUCHES AND TURNING THEM INTO EVIL-SEALING LOCKS IS VIATAL FOR FOR THOSE DOORINGS OF YOURS.
ヤイー!

I'M GONNA PICK UP SOME CLAMS FOR BREAK-FAST.
WAIT A MINUTE, JOUNO-SUKE
THE WEATHER IS A LOT CALMER NOW

LOOK, BIG BROTHER. YESTERDAY'S STORM BROUGHT IN LOTS OF STRANGE STUFF.
FORGET THAT AND PICK UP THE CLAMS ALREADY
.....
.....
THAT LOOKS FUNNY.

BROTHER, OVER THERE!
THERE IS A BIG PROBLEM!
STOP IT. DON'T PULL ME AROUND!
!
!!

MISTER TETSUJUU, THERE IS TROUBLE!
CARE TO TELL ME THE REASON FOR ALL THIS RUCKUS?
THAT WAY, OVER THERE!

ゴオオオッ
JIROUTA-SAMA!
AAAAH.

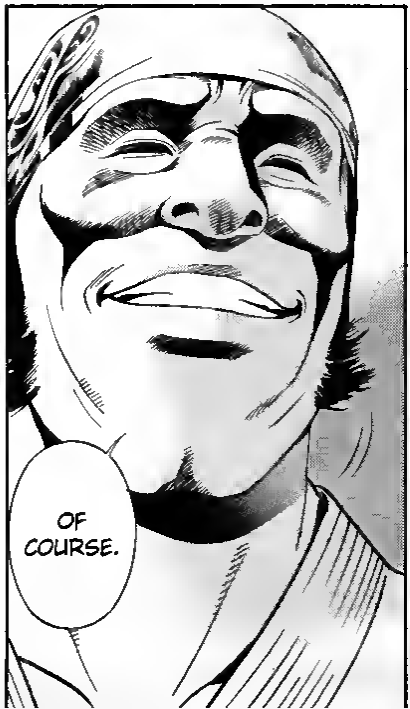
AARGH!

.....
.....
COME TO YOUR SENSES ?
PFFT.
IS ANY-THING WRONG ?
HIC.

YOU NEED NOT WORRY. I TOOK CARE OF YOU.
THE MEN DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING.
OH. AND HE'S MAKING A GHOULISH FACE, BUT I THINK I KNOW WHY.
.....
.....
I'M REALLY SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO ALARM YOU.

EVEN A GOLIATH LIKE TETSUJUU IS HELPLESS BEFORE A WOMAN.
GOLIATH, GHOULISH FACE. THAT'S NO WAY TO TALK ABOUT SOMEONE.
NOBODY ASKED FOR YOUR OPINION ABOUT MY PLACE.
THAT'S ENOUGH, O-KIN!
THIS IS TETSU-JUU-SAN'S HOUSE.
UMM.
WELL, AS MUCH AS ONE CAN CALL THIS A HOUSE.
WHERE AM I?

HERE'S SOME CLAM SOUP
WARM UP YOUR BODY SOME.


OF COURSE.

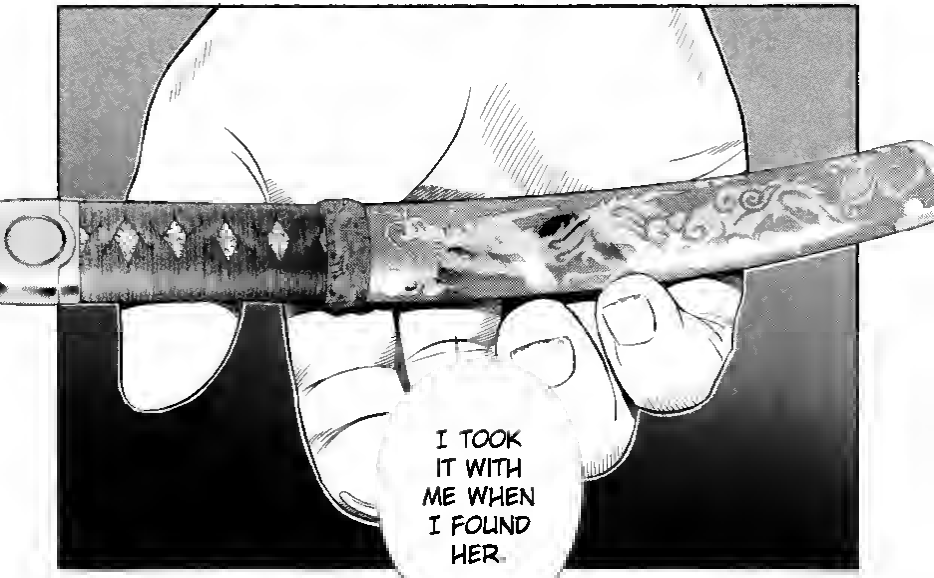
IT'S DELI-CIOUS.

O-KIN !!
HE IS A MUCH BETTER COOK THAT WHAT HIS LOOKS LET ON.
...
FAMILY ?
YOUR FAMILY MUST BE WORRIED SICK.
TELL US ABOUT THEM, SO WE CAN GO HAVE LOOK AROUND.
WE FOUND YOU UNCONSCIOUS ON THE NEARBY SHORE
YOU'VE BEEN SLEEPING FOR HALF A DAY. BUT YOU HAVE WOKEN UP, THANKS TO GOD.
AND ...
WHAT HAPPENED EXACTLY?

.....
.....
I DON'T KNOW
MAYBE YOU CAN'T FOR SOME REASON?
I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING!

SHE DID HAVE A MAMORIGATANA.
I DIDN'T NOTICE ANYTHING WHEN I CHANGED HER CLOTHES.
SHE DID NOT HAVE A PURSE OR ANYTHING THAT WOULD HELP US KNOW HER IDENTITY.
CAN I HAVE A LOOK AT HER POSSESSIONS?
SHE DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING.

TN: A SMALL BLADE FOR PROTECTION, AS THE NAME SUGGESTS



.....
.....
!
THIS IS NO MAMORI-GATANA.
IT'S A KEY.

IT SHOULD HELP GIVE US A CLUE AS TO WHAT YOUR IDENTITY IS.
CAN YOU REMEMBER SOMETHING?
DOES IT REMIND YOU OF SOME-THING?
AND A FAIRLY ELABORATE ONE, AT THAT.
THAT KEY'S NOT SOMETHING YOU SEE EVERY DAY.
.....
.....
.....
.....

RAARRGH
OH NO!
HANG IN THERE!
14th TALE: 21 10

第15話◎秘鏡の探偵 2

I'M QUITE BOTHERED BY HER LACK OF MEMORIES, THOUGH.
O-KIN. WHY DON'T WE LEAVE HER AT YOUR PLACE?
UUUU-UUUH?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO PICKED HER UP, TETSU-SAN.
YOU SHOULD SEE YOUR RESPONSI-BILITIES THROUGH TO THE END.
IN ADDITION,
IT'S A BAD IDEA TO MOVE SOME-BODY AROUND WHEN THEY'RE WOUNDED, ISN'T IT?
.....
.....
I GUESS THIS IS OUR ONLY LEAD.

I RECKON WE SHOULD TRY SOME DIVINATION
SOMETHING GOOD MIGHT COME OF IT
.....
.....

DAI-
MARU
!!

.....
.....
NOTHING ELSE COMES TO MIND
YOU CAN'T MEAN THE DRAPERIES STORE?
WHAT DOES THAT GREAT STORE HAVE TO DO WITH ANY-THING?!
DAIMARU, OODENMA DISTRICT.

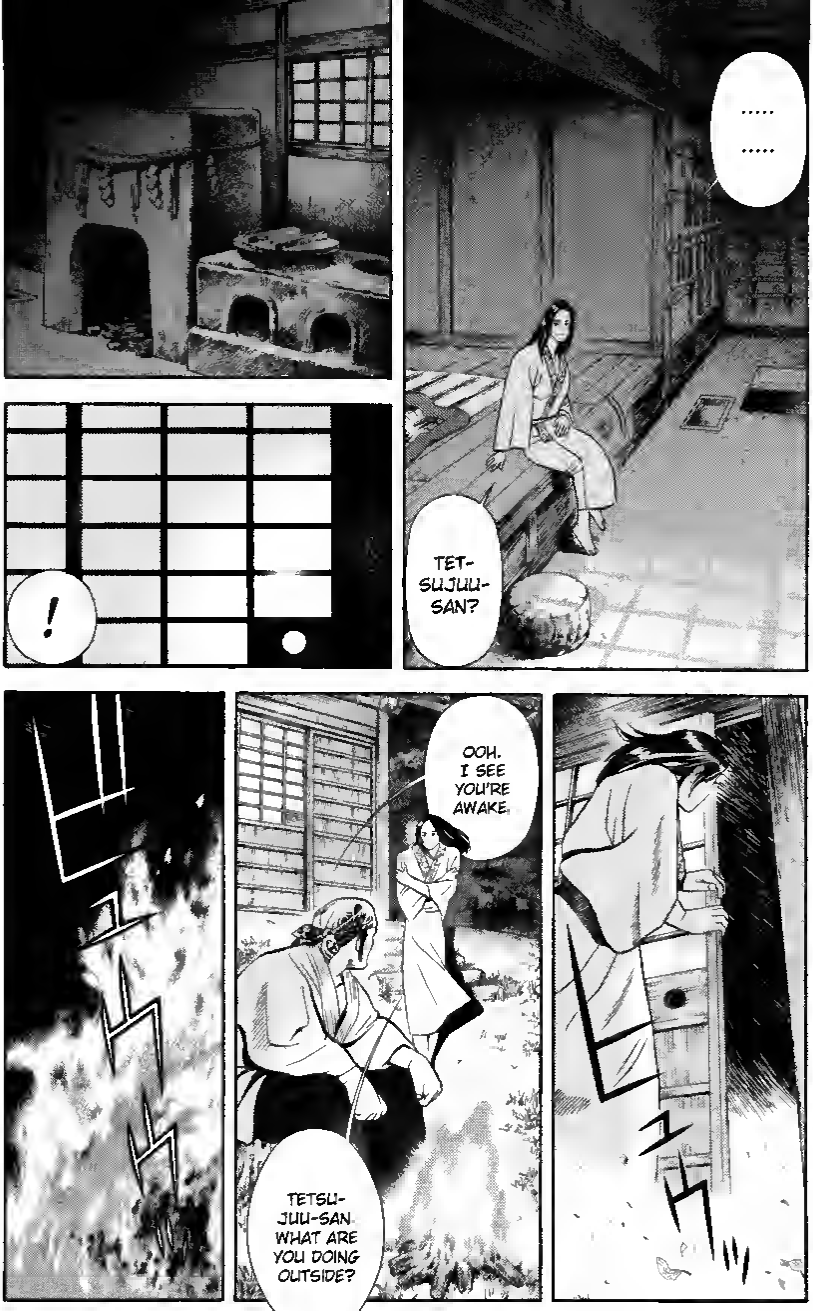
I'M REALLY WORRIED ABOUT THIS.

I HAVE NOTHING.
NOTHING A-BOUT A YOUNG WOMAN WHO'S DISAPPEARED RECENTLY.

YEAH. SAME HERE.

LET US INVESTIGATE A BIT MORE.

A DREAM ?!


.....
.....
TET-SUJUU-SAN?
!
OOH. I SEE YOU'RE AWAKE.
TETSU-JUU-SAN WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUTSIDE?

AAAAH.
HEY.
IF YOU REALLY WANT TO HELP, MAYBE YOU SHOULD START A BAR INSIDE THE HOUSE.
YOU'LL ...
YOU'LL PROBABLY REST BETTER IF YOU'RE LEFT ALONE.

?!
IT'S SO COLD OUT HERE.
SEE

.....
THAT WON'T DO.
I CAN'T LEAVE THE MAN WHO SAVED MY LIFE LIKE THAT.

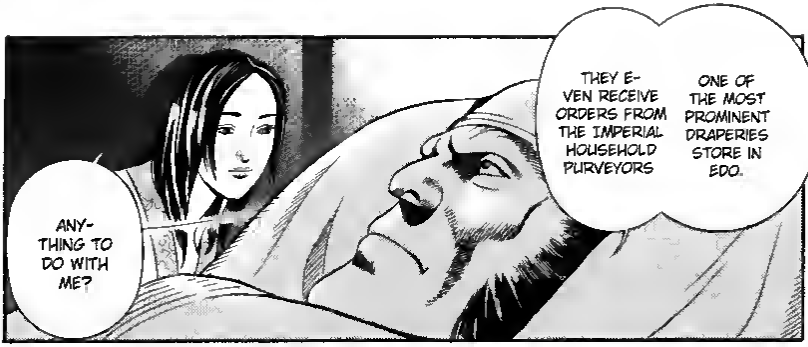
I WILL BE FINE.
I EVEN HAVE A CAMPFIRE

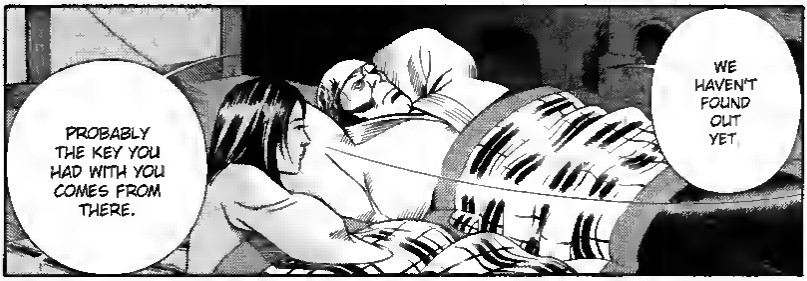
YOU'RE GOING TO RUIN YOUR HEALTH.
I BEG YOU TO COME IN-SIDE.
UH.
COME ON.
.....
.....

ISN'T THIS YOUR HOUSE?
WHY?
I GUESS I WILL BE GOING BACK OUTSIDE
.....
.....
COULD YOU BE THE KIND OF PERSON WHO'D TRY ANYTHING ON A SICK WOMAN?
OH NO.
BUT THE TWO OF US, ALL ALONE .....
LET'S FIND AN AR-RANGEMENT, THEN.
BUT.
OF COURSE NOT. I NEVER WOULD!
NO.
SO YOU CAN COME REST NEXT TO ME.

.....
.....
キュッ
NOW THERE SHOULD BE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
BECAUSE OF THAT STRING?
I'VE CREATED A KEKKAI.

WHAT IS SO FUNNY ?
IT'S JUST THAT "KEKKAI" IS SUCH A FANCY WORD
KEK-KAI?
ANYWAY, THINGS SHOULD BE FINE NOW.
THE STRING WILL PRO-TECT ME.
.....ANY MEMORIES OF DAIMARU?
EH?


ANY-THING TO DO WITH ME?
THEY E-VEN RECEIVE ORDERS FROM THE IMPERIAL HOUSEHOLD PURVEYORS
ONE OF THE MOST PROMINENT DRAPERIES STORE IN EDO.


PROBABLY THE KEY YOU HAD WITH YOU COMES FROM THERE.
WE HAVEN'T FOUND OUT YET.

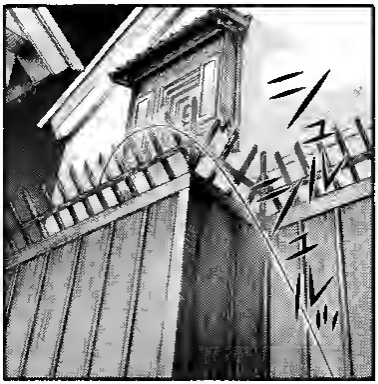
THEN THAT MAKES YOU THE BEST OR SECOND BEST BLACKSMITH IN EDO WHEN IT COMES TO LOCKS.
UH.

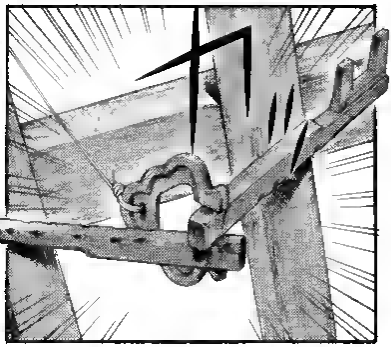
ERM.
JOUNOSUKE IS PROBABLY THE BEST OR SECOND BEST LOCKSMITH IN EDO.

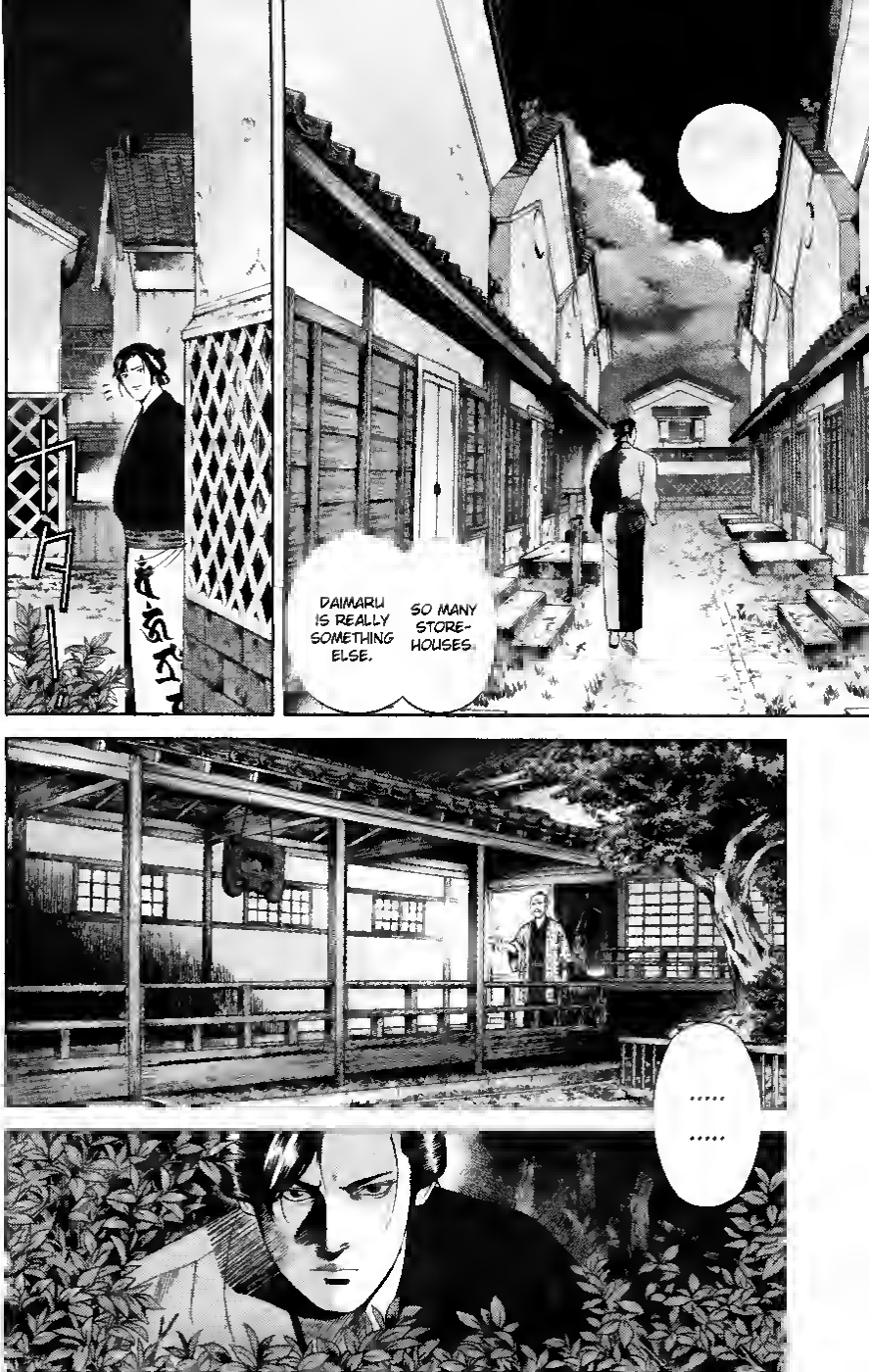
HOW DID YOU COME TO THAT CONCLU-SION?

AND A VERY SHY PERSON.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO FORGES THOSE LOCKS FOR JOUNOSUKE, ARE YOU NOT?
WELL, I'M BUT A SIMPLE SMITH
NOTHING TO WRITE HOME ABOUT.
ENOUGH. TIME TO SLEEP ALREADY!
カアアッ
.....
.....

ヒュン


ヒュルルル




DAIMARU IS REALLY SOMETHING ELSE.
SO MANY STORE-HOUSES.
.....
.....

HIM
?!

WHAT IS THE LEADER OF THE SHINOBI DOING HERE?!
THE HEAD OF THE IGA NINJAS. HATTORI SHINZOU.

15th TALE: END

第16話◎秘錠の密偵3

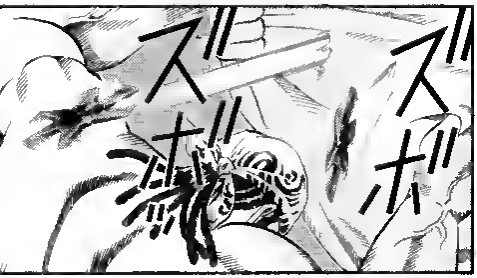
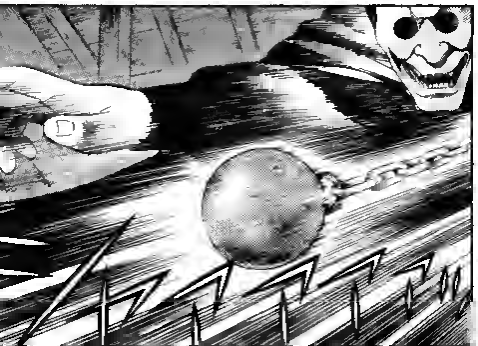
AAAARGH
!

!!
HH!

THIS IS BAD !!
HIC.

HUMPH!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU ?!

.....
.....
TSK.


ズバ
ズボ


ボッ
！

TET-SUJUU-SAN!
!
DON'T MIND ME.
RUN AWAY, QUICK-LY!

WHERE'S JIROUTA-SAMA?
.....
.....
WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?!
TSK.
WHAT ARE YOU WHINING ABOUT?
.....
.....
COME ON, TAKE IT!

.....
.....
!?
I'LL LET YOU DEAL WITH HIM.
COME ON!
?
WHAT'S WRONG ?
THIS ISN'T THE BEHAVIOR OF A MASTER SHINOBI LIKE YOU
SHINO .....BI.

.....
.....
!
IT'S OURS AT LAST.
I HAVE IT!
THERE IT IS.
INDEED, JIROUTA-SAMA.

THIS IS MORE PRAISE THAN I DESERVE.
YOU HAVE NO SMALL MERIT IN THIS.
UKIHA
HH

WHAT'S WRONG ?!
MY.
MY HEAD !!
ARGH
TIME TO FINISH YOU!
TSK.
NO MORE USE FOR HER, I TAKE IT.

ニィ
!

JOUNO-
SUKE!

HMPH.
ARE YOU ALRIGHT, TETSU-JUU?
THE GOOD MAN ALWAYS COMES TO THE RESCUE IN GOOD TIME.

JOU-NOSUKE DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY
DON'T BOTHER
I HAVE A LOOOOT OF QUESTIONS FOR HIM.
NO BLADE CAN CUT THROUGH THIS MATE-RIAL.

HUMPH

!!
COUGH
COUGH.
HE'S
GONE
!!

AND THE GIRL HAS GONE WITH HIM !!
WAIT!
!
THEY CAN'T BE FAR AWAY FROM HERE.
STOP IT. DON'T GO TOO FAR AFTER THEM.
WE'RE DEALING WITH SHINOBI, HERE.
IF WE'RE NOT CAREFUL ABOUT THIS, WE WON'T COME OUT UNSCATHED.

I HAVE CREATED A KEKKAI.
.....
.....
DON'T TELL ME SHE WAS ONE OF THEM?
...
A KEKKAI, EH?
I KNEW THIS WASN'T THE KIND A WORD A RUN-OF-THE-MILL TOWN GIRL WOULD EMPLOY.
.....
.....

WHO'S THERE ?!
ガラッ
!

YAMIKAGISHI 2: END

初出

第9話◎十手と鏡前❶……「漫画アクション」2005年11月15日号
第10話◎十手と鏡前❷……「漫画アクション」2005年12月6日号
第11話◎十手と鏡前❸……「漫画アクション」2005年12月20日号
第12話◎大晦の母影（おおつごもり）❶……「漫画アクション」2006年1月3日号
第13話◎大晦の母影❷……「漫画アクション」2006年1月17日号
第14話◎秘鏡の密偵❶……「漫画アクション」2006年3月7日号
第15話◎秘鏡の密偵❷……「漫画アクション」2006年3月21日号
第16話◎秘鏡の密偵❸……「漫画アクション」2006年4月4日号

あとがき

僕が原作者と組んで仕事をする理由は、たった一つ。
底の浅い漫画を描きたくない。それにつきる。
僕自身、手に取って読んだ漫画が、期待を裏切るような底の浅いものだった時、
惹かれて手に取ったはずの絵まで、薄っぺらなものに見えてしまう。
読者にそんな失礼があってはならない。
僕の漫画で10年以上続いている『勇午』という作品がある。
原作者は過去「Day's Japan」にも携わり、世界情勢などに精通している、驚くほどの知識人だし。
この『闇鍵師』は、説明の必要のない劇団☆新感線の屋台骨を創った「中島伝奇」のその人だ。
物語が浅くなるはずがない。
この第2巻では、読者待望の長編エピソードが始まった。
赤名 修と中島かずきがお届けする『闇鍵師』第2巻、深く堪能していただきたい。

赤名 修

足占のお琴に加え、鍛冶屋の鉄拾、八丁堀の土門、そして伊賀組頭領・服部真蔵の再登場と、
錠之介を囲むキャラクターが徐々に揃いつつある。
『秘錠の密偵』のエピソードは、これまでになく長くなるだろう。（とはいえコミックス一巻程度だろうが）
基本的には長短はあるにせよ読み切りエピソードを積み重ねながら、
ゆっくりと、錠之介の過去や彼とその仲間達が江戸を何から護ろうとしているのか、
そういう物語のうねりも描いていきたいと思っている。
とりあえず、大丸の鍵をめぐる錠之介と（今はまだ正体を明かせないが）強敵の忍びとの
攻防戦がメインとなる第三巻をご期待下さい。

中島かずき

ACTION COMICS
開鍵師❷
2006年7月28日第一刷発行（検印廃止）

〔著　者〕原作・中島かずき　画・赤名 修
〔発行者〕佐藤俊行
〔発行所〕株式会社双葉社
〒162-8540東京都新宿区東五軒町3-28
TEL（営業）03-5261-4818　（編集）03-5261-4851
振替00180-6-117299
〔装　幀〕星野ゆきお for VOLARE inc.
〔印刷所〕三晃印刷株式会社

落丁・乱丁の場合は本社にてお取りかえいたします。
定価はカバーに表示してあります。

ISBN4-575-83247-2　c 9979
©中島かずき・赤名 修 2005 Printed in Japan.

双葉社ホームページ　http://www.futabasha.co.jp/
（双葉社の書籍・コミックが買えます。）

OFFTOPIA
SCAN BY UNOK
TRANSLATION
BY GOTTHEIM
CLEANING BY
MIEZE
TYPESETTING BY
FEANOR